

7323 E
West C
June 25, 1965

49519
No. 00000009



Butler County Health Department
Butler County Court House
Hamilton, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I wish to request, on behalf of the Union Township Improvement Association, that you investigate as soon as possible, the operation of the Skinner dump of West Chester. We believe it to be a nuisance of the first order, and that it is the responsibility of the Health Department to determine whether or not this is true and to shut it down promptly if our suspicions are actualities.

We believe that the previous Commissioner of Health was lax to a deplorable degree in maintaining any sanitation standards in this matter, to the extent that we were beginning to wonder if there were not good reason to bring suit against him for neglecting his duty. His dismissal was probably one of the best things that could have happened to this township. We are certainly hopeful that the next Commissioner of Health will be more receptive to the wishes of the citizens of Union Township.

We would like for the following items to be investigated:

1. On good authority, we understand that liquid cyanide has been dumped on the property, then covered. This is in the center of a village, across the street from a school of 820 pupils, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile from a subdivision of 100 homes, with numerous others located at greater distances. This cyanide is supposed to have come from the Ford Motor Company's Sharonville plant. My informant prefers to remain anonymous, but perhaps I can obtain more details if you will let me know what you need.
2. We understand that other chemicals almost as dangerous as cyanide are being dumped on the property. These chemicals are said to have come from the ~~Andrew Jurgens~~ Jurgens Company, Dow Chemical Company, Globe Valve Company, and Cincinnati Chemical Company. We understand that the cyanide and silver electrochemical plating compounds are lethal enough to wipe out our whole community, under the right set of conditions.
3. We understand that the Ralston-Purina Company uses rendered-animal fats to "meat-reinforce" cereals

for use as cat and dog foods, and that when these rendered fats become so spoiled that they are no longer usable for this purpose, they are dumped on the Skinner property.

4. We understand that this dump is supposed to be operating (as a non-conforming use) at a rate of no more than five to ten truckloads of trash per week, this being about the extent of the operation in 1956, when the zoning ordinance went into effect. Even this relatively small operation is a nuisance to the community when the trash is burned and smokes up our valley to the extent that visibility is impaired on the state highway which passes by the property, as well as being distinctly undesirable to the closest residents.
5. We believe that the dump is handling raw garbage as well as trash, if the obnoxious odor of only last night may be taken as proof. This strong odor was distinctly detectable up to about a mile away, and one woman reported that her family found the odor so repulsive that they were unable to sleep as long as it remained.
6. Residents close to the dump think that they are seeing raw garbage being delivered in open trucks, and have taken some pictures which, I hope, will serve as proof.
7. Residents close to the dump report a higher-than-normal rat count, indicating that raw garbage may be handled.
8. We understand that the dump is operating as an open dump, with no pretense being made that this is a "sanitary landfill". We would object just as strenuously if it were, because we firmly believe that there is no such thing, especially so close to our homes and school.
9. On more than one occasion, large swarms of huge flies have been seen within a mile of the dump, in residential areas. We think that their presence may be attributed to more than mere coincidence.

Also, I am sure that you are aware of the threat that Mr. Skinner will expand his operation to as large an operation as he can obtain contracts for, in violation of our zoning laws. I realize that the authority of the Health Department is limited in this matter, but we would appreciate very much your helping us to prevent it in any way that you can. Perhaps the best thing you could

do for us is to visit the existing operation so often that Mr. Skinner would get the idea that he will not get away with sloppy sanitation practices, even if he is allowed to expand. Certainly, such half-hearted efforts as have been made in the past will do no good, but will serve only to convince him that he will be able to get away with whatever he wishes in our township.

We also understand that Mr. Skinner is under an injunction now, for poor sanitation practices in the past.

Perhaps the best thing that the Health Department could do for us would be to simply outlaw all open dumps in the county, as our neighboring counties have recently done.

This organization plans, at all costs, to prevent the expansion of the existing operation, then to get the existing operation shut down as a public nuisance. To accomplish this, citizens of West Chester, Maud, Gano, Pisgah, and Dalewood and Hycrest Acres Subdivisions are soliciting money to hire the services of the best lawyer we can find in the county, who is already working on the case. We do not intend to ask him to spend his time doing one thing that the county officials should be doing, inasmuch as we feel it is a disgrace that we are able to obtain so little satisfaction that we must both pay taxes and then hire a lawyer to see that the taxes are spent as we wish, but we intend for him to be our eyes and ears in the courthouse and see that county officials do all that they can to help us.

Please be assured that if any of your personnel have any trouble in getting on the Skinner property, I will do all that I can to provide any number of citizens that you would wish to deputize and help you.

We will be looking forward to your early reply.

Sincerely,

Bluford L. Moor

Bluford L. Moor, Chairman
Union Township Improvement
Association

cc: file

P. Eaden

G. Eagle, Director

Dept. of Sanitation

Ohio Dept. of Health